

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

REC'D 13 MAY 2005

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

10/538717

Applicant's or agent's file reference pct0407	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/KR2004/000012	International filing date (day/month/year) 07 JANUARY 2004 (07.01.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year) 08 JANUARY 2003 (08.01.2003)	

International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC

IPC7 E04C 5/16

Applicant

KIM, Yong Keun

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

- (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:
 - sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
- (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the report
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18 MARCH 2004 (18.03.2004)	Date of completion of this report 26 APRIL 2005 (26.04.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/KR  Korean Intellectual Property Office 920 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea	Authorized officer KIM, Hyun Woo Telephone No. 82-42-481-5795
Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/KR2004/000012

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language English, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:
pages _____ received by this Authority on _____ as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/KR2004/000012

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-22	YES
	Claims	NONE	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-22	YES
	Claims	NONE	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-22	YES
	Claims	NONE	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: KR 96-22889 U

D2: JP 45-014832 Y

D3: JP 09-165875 A

D4: JP 10-152941 A

D5: JP 13-304210 A

The present invention relates to a reinforcing bar coupler comprising a sleeve, a cover unit, and a wedge.

1. Novelty

Claim 1 of the present application relates to a reinforcing bar coupler comprising a sleeve having reinforcing bar seating grooves, a cover unit for covering the reinforcing bars seated in the seating grooves of the sleeve, and a wedge fitted into a space between the sleeve and the cover unit to wedge the cover unit.

None of said documents disclose said technical features of the present application. Therefore, the present application is considered to be novel.

2. Inventive Step

The following are comparisons between claim 1 of the present application and said documents:

(Continued on Supplemental Sheet.)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/KR2004/000012

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.
Continuation of:

Box V.

D1 does not have a cover unit or a wedge, and consequently produces a weaker effect for wedging reinforcing bars. D2 does not have a wedge, and consequently produces a weaker effect for wedging reinforcing bars. D3 has a technical feature corresponding to the cover unit of claim 1, but does not have any technical feature corresponding to the wedge. D4 does not have any technical feature corresponding to the cover unit or wedge of claim 1, and consequently produces a weaker effect for wedging reinforcing bars. D5 has a technical feature corresponding to the wedge of claim 1. However, the sleeve of D5 is different from that of claim 1, and D5 does not have any technical feature corresponding to the cover unit of claim 1. In addition, as the effect of a wedge for wedging reinforcing bars, the contact area according to D5 is small, and consequently the wedging effect of D5 is weaker.

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step over said documents. The subject matter of claims 2-22 which refer to claim 1 is also considered to involve an inventive step.